

## FRENCH BREAK DRIVE UPON VERDUN FORTS

Joffre's Troops Resting After  
Smashing Crown Prince's  
Front.

(Continued from First Page.)

Cote du Poivre, are covered with German dead.

The war office reports the repulse of every assault directed against the strongly fortified position on this ridge.

It is believed here that the climax of the German offensive has been reached.

**Fort's Value Discounted.**

Fort Douaumont is the northernmost outpost of the fortress of Verdun as it was constituted prior to the present war.

The value of the various points in the organization of the Verdun front as it has been rebuilt to cope with the latest high-powered guns is not a matter of public knowledge.

Fort Douaumont was the most advanced of the northern forts of the old organization, which have been superseded since the Germans demonstrated the effectiveness of their high angle guns by new forts of sand construction.

The wording of the official communication announcing the furious fighting around the fort seems to indicate that the fort is still in progress and that it is too early to count on the successful counter attack as a turning point of the battle.

At the same time the fact that after five days of uninterrupted successes on the narrow front the Germans have been not only held but thrown back is taken as an augury of greater French successes to come.

With the withdrawal behind a point north of Champagneville and Ornes, these two points representing the wings of the battle line, the front on which the Germans concentrating their attack, narrowed to about three miles.

**Battle Line Narrow.**

The French occupy heights offering excellent opportunities for defense. At one point, the heights of Louvemont, the Germans succeeded in pushing the French back from the edge of the heights in their attack on Douaumont, but even this last point seems tonight possible of recapture, since it is here that the French counter attack is pushing back the Germans, who for a brief interval held Fort Douaumont.

The narrowness of the battle line permits heavily concentrated attacks, but also permits equally concentrated defense.

Military experts in France predict that a French counter offensive, if not already begun, will be begun in good time and will throw the Germans, exhausted by extraordinary losses, back over the ground that they have struggled for nearly a week to gain. Several eye witnesses at the front describe the German assault as the most sanguinary that the war has yet developed.

**Previous Attack a Feint.**

The Petit Parisien says that the German attack in Champagne on February 12 was intended as a feint to divert attention from the preparations being made against Verdun. Three successive waves were sent against the French lines, supported by apophizing gas and liquid fire, but the wind changed inopportunistically and the gas fumes and flames were turned back against the Germans, frustrating the attack.

A French officer returned from this front gave the following description of the situation:

"The work up there is not indeed. They are gnawing at our lines a little faster, but with no positive advantage for themselves. Previous attacks made by the Germans in that section are nothing to what they are now delivering.

"I cannot of course give details, but I can say that we are holding well against their formidable attacks. The artillery exchange is very lively. Our batteries, admirably handled, have changed ground in masterly style, and the losses to the enemy are really fabulous.

**Two Forts Under Fire.**

"Our are slight, a feeble percentage of them. The Germans are, so to speak, at the limits of the Argonne and the Meuse heights, the topography of which constitutes what I might compare to a series of coffee dams. The Germans have been preparing this stroke for a long time. It was in the region of Combaux-Etain that they gathered the bulk of the material for the assault, as they had erected large factories at those points."

Fort de Belleville and de Marre are now under fire of the German howitzers. There are more than 400 guns massed behind the German lines on an eight-mile front between Consenvoye and Ornes. The Marre estimates the number of re-enforcements brought up

by the Germans for the present drive at 50,000 men.

The Marre says:

"The battle of Verdun is infinitely more bloody than the battle of Ypres. Already our staff has identified seven different attacking divisions, which means that the Teutons are launching 30,000 men into the cataclysmic fire along the nine-mile front."

**Austrian Troops Occupy Durazzo; Italians Retreat**

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—Austrian troops have occupied the city of Durazzo, provisional capital of Albania, according to a Vienna dispatch.

Rome dispatches yesterday reported that all Italian and Albanian troops had been withdrawn from Durazzo by Italian transports. After surrounding the town on three sides the Austrians attacked from the southeast, encountering little opposition.

Durazzo is a dilapidated town of about 5,000 inhabitants, built on a hillside. It lies thirty-five miles north of Aynon, where the Italians are strongly entrenched in anticipation of Austro-Hungarian attack.

**12,988 Turks Captured At Fall of Erzerum**

LONDON, Feb. 27.—Petrograd has issued the following official statement:

"The results of the operations at Erzerum were obtained with relatively insignificant losses. We captured 23 Turkish officers, 12,733 men, nine flags, the first-class Turkish fortress of Erzerum and large depots of arms, munitions, supplies, signaling telegraph and telephone equipments, stores and parks."

These are the first official figures concerning the number of prisoners taken at Erzerum. Unofficial estimates placed the number at various figures, one as high as 40,000.

**Kuropatkin to Command Russians on Riga Front**

LONDON, Feb. 27.—Petrograd advices state that recent reports that General Kuropatkin, commander-in-chief of the Russian forces in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese war, is to take command on the Riga front, have been confirmed. He will succeed General Ruzsky.

"We continue to pursue the defeated and demoralized Turks without giving them any respite, fifty miles from Erzerum on the road to Trebizond," said the official statement. "We threw back the enemy rear guards, and occupied the village of Aachkala."

**Aix-la-Chapelle Filled With German Wounded**

AMSTERDAM (via London), Feb. 27.—Never since the outbreak of the war have so many German wounded arrived at Aix-la-Chapelle as in the last few days.

There is insufficient means of conveyance, and as a result wounded men in litter are lying in long files awaiting automobiles to convey them to hospitals.

**Austrian Troops Driven Out of Italian Trenches**

ROME, Feb. 27.—Austrian troops penetrated Italian trenches west of Gorizia, but were driven out with serious losses. General Cadorna reports to the war office.

Austrian trenches on the Carso plateau were captured by the Italians, who also took forty-seven prisoners on the slopes of San Michele.

**ROCKVILLE.**

By smashing the windows, thieves gained entrance to the drug store of W. F. Mattingly and the store of Bernard Gannon, at Silver Spring.

At the drug store the thief broke open a safe and took \$3,000, over \$1,000 of which was cash. The safe was taken from the Gannon store and demolished in the road in front. Its contents, only 50 cents, was taken.

Robert E. L. Yellott has filed suit here for \$500 against Trustee Beale. Mr. Yellott claims the amount is due him on the recent sale of a tract of land in Potomac district.

Miss Daisy Reid, twenty-two years old, and Robert N. Martin, aged twenty-one, both of Washington, were married here today.

Jesse A. Higgins, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Higgins, left today for Hopewell, Va.

The teachers of the Rockville High School entertained the members of the tenth and eleventh grades last evening.

Miss Katherine Dorsey was the hostess at a dance at the home of her grandparents, Col. and Mrs. William Dorsey, Friday.

Mrs. Albert M. Boule is in Atlantic City.

Mrs. Harry A. Dawson gave a dance at the Montgomery Country Club Thursday.

Miss Margaret Stokes was the hostess at a dance at the Montgomery Country Club Monday.

**Noted Cincinnatian Dead.**

CINCINNATI, Feb. 27.—Franklin A. Alter, president of the American Tool Works Company, and one of the best known business men in this city, died at the age of eighty-four. Mr. Alter was a prominent member of the Democratic party.

**Whitehaven Farms**

White Leghorns.  
Eggs and Poultry in Season.  
Eggs For Hatching.

A. W. KIDWELL,  
Assistant Manager,  
Ridge Road, D. C.

Phone West 385

**Poultry Fountain**

Fresh water is essential to poultry raising. Poultrymen, a different style.

"Everything for the poultryman."  
WASHINGTON POULTRY SUPPLY HOUSES 909 H St. N. W.

**EGGS FOR HATCHING**

From Prize Winners of Madison Square Garden. Black Wyandottes, Silver-laced Wyandottes, and Barred Plymouth. At reasonable prices.

J. T. McNEALLY,  
Lovettsville, Va.  
BABY CHICKS

From pure bred White Wyandottes, Barred Plymouth Rocks, B. C. Rhode Island Reds, \$12 per 100.

Good large utility stock \$8 per 100. They make fine broilers and capons.

Custom hatching a specialty. For particulars write or phone.

Rockwood Poultry Farms,  
Hamilton, Va.

S. C. RHODE ISLAND REDS—Eggs for hatching from heavy laying strain, 12 cents for 10. Mrs. M. S. LOGAN, Rainier ave., Mt. Rainier, Md.

**EGGS FOR HATCHING**

Pure bred Barred Plymouth Rock eggs for hatching, \$1.00 per setting of 15 eggs.

U. W. JAMES,  
HAMILTON POULTRY FARM,  
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**White Leghorn and Rhode Island Reds—per setting of 15 eggs, \$1.50. Guaranteed Fertile.**

Special Service to Hotels and Hospitals. Deliveries within 24 hours after laying. Guaranteed.

**BOTHWELL Poultry Farm**  
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**AIR HILL POULTRY FARM,**  
C. B. CROSS, Prop.

S. C. White Leghorn eggs for hatching \$1.50 per setting. These eggs are from stock that has won in a show.

CLIFTON STATION, Va., R. F. D. 3

## POULTRYMAN SHOULD START IN SMALL WAY

Business Should Be Learned  
Thoroughly Before Large Investment Is Made.

The safest way for those who are about to make their first attempt at poultry raising is to start in a small way with a few fowls, and learn the business thoroughly before making large investments. Mistakes will be made and many difficult problems will be presented for solution. Success in any large measure will be attained. As soon as it is found to be a paying investment, more capital may be put into the plan.

Another good plan for the beginner who wishes to learn the art of poultry keeping is to secure a position with some successful poultryman. One or two years of work on a large, practical plant will be found a great help, and the methods of carrying for the birds and of marketing the products can thus be learned better than in almost any other way.

The question is often asked as to what is the best time of the year for one to begin. When to begin is not very important, but the fall of the year is a good time, for then stock can be purchased for less money than at any other time. It is also advisable that the fowls be moved to their new quarters before they begin to lay.

For the beginner, it will be all right to purchase eggs, otherwise he should begin with the fowls and thus learn the methods of carrying for the birds before attempting to raise chickens.

## "CANDLING" TESTS EGG FOR FRESHNESS

Basin of Water May Also Be Used for Small Quantities.

When supplying a fancy trade with eggs, or on receiving eggs from outside sources, it is often desirable to determine their freshness.

The method generally used by commission merchants for this purpose is known as "candling," and consists in holding the egg between the eye and a light so as to note the contents.

This should be done in a darkened room, using one of the egg testers on the market or the simple home-made tester.

The air space in a perfectly fresh egg is very small, and the egg loses part of its contents by evaporation this air space increases in size with the age of the egg. Fresh eggs should appear clear and bright, showing no dark spots. Those incubated to "candling" soon learn to detect stale eggs with a good degree of accuracy and rapidly.

Another method employed by some who have not a great number to test is to put the eggs in a basin of water. If good they will stand on their sides; if bad they will stand on the small ends.

The older the egg the more upright it stands, and if very old it will be suspended in the water or even float on the surface.

## How Frostbitten Comb, Or Wattles, Is Cured

If the comb or wattles of fowls become frostbitten, it is discovered before they thaw out, apply warm or cold water to remove the frost. For this gradual thawing will often save them. Then apply vasoline to the affected parts twice a day.

## How to get Fertile Eggs

Luck? No, Sir. Simply a matter of building up the health of the parent stock. Begin now to use

## Pratts

**Poultry Regulator**

It insures health, strength and vitality, and of course eggs that hatch. It's not expensive, either. Costs only about a cent a hen a month. Try our guarantee to satisfy you or your money back.

25 lb. pail only \$2.50; 12 lb. pail, \$1.25. Packages, \$1.00; 50c; and 25c.

When baby chicks come, there is only one thing to do—feed them Pratt's Baby Chick Food. It makes them grow.

25c and 50c; 14 lb. bag, \$1.00; 10 lb. \$1.75. Pratt's is always sold on a money-back guarantee; so accept no substitute.

Sold by feed, seed, and poultry supply dealers everywhere.

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## FUNERAL RITES FOR CAPITAL RESIDENTS

Hours and Places of Service Arranged by Bereaved Families.

Funeral services for George P. Bohrer, seventy-three years old, for thirty years manager of Convention Hall, who died suddenly Friday following an attack of acute indigestion at his home, 328 Virginia avenue southeast, will be held at the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Members of St. John's Lodge, No. 11, F. A. A. M., will have charge of the services. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Funeral services for Arthur A. Allison will be held at the residence, 33 Q street northeast, tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be private.

Funeral services for Harry O. Aylor will be held from the residence, 461 G street northwest, tomorrow morning at 8:30 o'clock. Requiem mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Church at 9 o'clock. Interment will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Funeral services for Mrs. Annie D. Davis will be held on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock from the residence, 1118 Twenty-first street northwest, thence to St. Stephen's Church, where requiem mass will be said.

Funeral services for Mrs. Anna C. Butt will be held at the residence, 227 Florida avenue northwest, tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be made at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Funeral services for Henry M. McDonald will be held from the residence, 681 Morton street northwest, tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Interment will be made at Rock Creek Cemetery.

Funeral services for Mrs. Anna C. Butt will be held at the residence, 227 Florida avenue northwest, tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be made at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

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## Williams Attacks Wilson and Lansing

Declares President Apparently  
Has Forgotten the Traditions  
of Democracy.

Political Washington today is discussing an attack made on President Wilson and Secretary Lansing by George Fred Williams, former minister to Greece, who resigned some time ago, after differing with the Administration. Williams makes the flat denial that delegates to the St. Louis convention should be sent unprompted to frame Democratic Presidential policies.

Attacking the President for checking the effort of Congress to legislate on the question of warning Americans from armed belligerent merchantmen, Williams says:

"The clash between democracy and imperialism is heard, and strangely enough, within the Democratic party. Strange, indeed, it is that a Congressional resolution intended to avoid a fatal issue. The President's course in announcing his military policy was equally imperial. He declared it without consulting the legislative leaders representing the people."

"When the President in his isolation undertook to frame policies without orders from the people he forgot apparently the tenets and traditions of democracy."

Challenging Secretary Lansing's democracy, Williams says:

"When the Secretary to the country and the party." He referred to Lansing as "a stranger to the people and the Democratic Administration leaders were silent today on the Williams attack."

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